(e) whether Government propose to send an official level delegation to China to further strengthen the relations between two countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) A delegation led by the Chinese Vice Minister of Finance, Mr. Chi Haibin, visited India from August 2-10-1990. The delegation had discussions with the Government departments concerned in the areas of finance, economy, banking, agriculture and planning.

Courtesy calls were made on the Vice President and the Finance Minister.

(c) and (d) The visit was essentially in the nature of a study tour and contributed to fresh insights on problems of development in both countries.

(e) and (f) Such visits are part of the process of enhancement of bilateral contacts between India and China in various fields for mutual benefit. Official level contacts with China are taking place from time to time.

Chinese suggestion for normalisation of relations between India and Nepal

3264. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a message from Mr. Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister was handed over by Mr. Qi Yanjing, a senior Member of Chinese Communist Party and a close confidant of Mr. Li to the Prime Minister on or around 14th June, 1990 in the context of his successful talks with the Nepalese Prime Minister earlier;

(b) if so, whether the message suggested by any further steps towards normalisation of relations between Nepal and India; and

(c) what steps have been/are being taken in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Passport forgers in Delhi

3265. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a gang of passport forgers was busted in Delhi with the arrest of two persons in July, 1990; and

(b) if so, the details of the persons apprehended in connection therewith and the other findings of the investigation and enquiries in connection therewith, as to their *modus-operandi*, etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Following information received the Delhi Police apprehended one Sada Sivam on 28th June, 1990 and 5 Indian passports bearing forged visa of Saudi Arabia and forged immigration stamps were recovered from his possession. A case FIR No. 489/90 u/s 420/466/468-IPC/13 Passport Act was registered at Police Station Rajouri Garden. A large number of forged passports, fake degrees, certificates etc. were also recovered from his rented premises in Tagore Garden, New Delhi. Subsequently, Delhi Police arrested his accomplice, Bashir and some forged documents were also recovered from his possession.

Fire-arm Licences to members of S.Cs.

3266. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to issue licences for fire-arms

to members of scheduled castes, who apply for it, in areas where they are subjected to harassment, booth capture and molestation of women etc. so as to protect themselves from the attacks of powerful sections; and

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Adequate provisions exist in the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 1962 for obtaining licences for fire arms for various purposes including self protection. Provisions of the said Act and Rules are uniformly applicable to all throughout the country and licences are granted by the concerned licensing authorities on the basis of genuine and proven need.

Current affairs programmes to private producers

3267. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether current affairs programmes are still being given to private producers to produce; if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) if so, (i) what is the official policy on selection and approval of current affairs programmes by private producers specifically, what are the criteria for approval and rejection (ii) whether there is any provision for recording reasons for rejection of proposals for such programmes; if not, the reasons therefor; if so, state these provisions; what has been the record of their implementation (iii) whether there is any procedure for appeal against a decision to reject particular proposals; if not, the reasons therefor; if so, what are these procedures; (iv) whether there is any set of criteria to check the arbitrary approval or rejection of such programmes; if not the reasons therefor; if so, what are the details thereof and (v) in what manner Government ensure that patently political or personal motives do not enter such decisions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Doordarshan continues to assign production of programmes on current affairs to cutside Producers as and when considered necessary.

(b) Such factors as topicality of the subject, treatment/approach proposed to be given, experience of the technical crew and the time schedule for production of the programmes are taken into account in the matter of acceptance or rejection of such proposals. It is not always possible to give the precise reasons on the basis of which a particular proposal has been rejected because an overall view is required to be taken based on totality of circumstances. These proposals are examined at different levels and finally by a duly constituted Committee and this multi-level decision making process ensures that decisions taken are not arbitrary in nature. However, the Producer is free to request for a review and his request is considered on merits.

Official Policy of Censorship

3268. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the official policy on censorship to Current Affairs Programmes;

(b) whether there are any objective guidelines for what may or may not be permitted on Doordarshan; if so, what are the details thereof; if not, what are the reasons therefor;